



New records of *Tachybaptus dominicus* (Linnaeus, 1766) (Aves, Podicipedidae) south of its currently known distribution in Argentina

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Abstract

We report on 4 records of the Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus* (Linnaeus, 1766), to the south of its theoretical distributional limit in Córdoba Province, Argentina. In recent years, these records and others uploaded to citizen science platforms suggest that this species' distribution extends south of its currently known range.

Key words

Citizen science, Córdoba, Least Grebe, range extension.

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Introduction

The Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus* (Linnaeus, 1766), is a small waterbird considered a species of Least Concern that inhabits inland freshwater bodies with abundant aquatic vegetation in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas (Del Hoyo et al. 1992). Up to now, the southernmost limit of the distribution of the grebe in Argentina is in the provinces of Tucumán, Santiago del Estero, Santa Fe and Corrientes (BirdLife International 2018). Historically, the Least Grebe has not been cited as existing in central Argentina (Nores and Yzurieta 1980), and it has been proposed that most of the scarce records of the species south of the 29th parallel were actually young individuals of White-Tufted Grebe, *Rollandia rolland* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824) (Nores and Yzurieta 1983). In particular, the first confirmed record in Córdoba Province is an isolated record in 1996 (Casañas and Cargnelutti 1997).

In the present note, we report 4 records of the Least Grebe at different sites in Córdoba Province, Argentina,

and present a review of recent records of this species in Córdoba Province published on citizen-science platforms.

Methods

Observations were made during birdwatching trips in Córdoba Province, Argentina, between 2016 and 2018. All the records are supported by photographs taken by the authors (Fig. 1). We also report on records published by 2 citizen-science projects to complement this work: eBird (<https://ebird.org/>) and EcoRegistros (<https://ecoregistros.org/>).

Results

***Tachybaptus dominicus* (Linnaeus, 1766)**
(Podicipedidae, Aves)

New records. Argentina, Córdoba, Chancaní (31°22'28" S, 065°27'18" W), observed by Santiago Castillo and Javier Poblete, 3 June 2016, 1 individual (in a temporary



Figure 1. Photographs of Least Grebes. **A.** Chancaní. **B.** Quilpo River. **C.** El Cajón Lake. **D.** Serrezuela.

pond with other waterbird species), Fig. 1A.

Argentina, Córdoba, Quilpo River reservoir, near the town of Cruz del Eje (30°47'28" S, 064°42'12" W), observed by Martín Toledo, Santiago Martín Costas, and Juan Klavins, 2 November 2016, 2 individuals (in the riverbed; there were herons and ducks nearby), Fig. 1B.

Argentina, Córdoba, El Cajón Lake, near the town of Capilla del Monte (30°51'59" S, 064°32'40" W), observed by Martín Toledo, Santiago Martín Costas, Adrian Giacinta, and Santiago Castillo, 16 June 2017, 1 individual (moving near the lakeshore a long way from the observers), Fig. 1C.

Argentina, Córdoba, Serrezuela (30°38'44" S, 065°19'40" W), observed by Martín Toledo, Juan Klavins, and Fabricio Gorleri, 21 July 2018, 1 individual (in a small reservoir on the side of a road with some associated vegetation), Fig. 1D.

Identification. Least Grebes were principally identified by their characteristic yellow eyes, which easily differentiate them from the White-Tufted Grebe or the Silvery Grebe, *Podiceps occipitalis* Garnot, 1826, which has red eyes.

Discussion

The presence of the Least Grebe in central Argentina was historically discussed (Nores and Yzurieta 1983).

Considering ours and another 19 records from throughout the year in Córdoba Province published on citizen science databases since 2008 (eBird 2018, Ecoregistros 2018) (Table 1) and including a nesting record (Vitale and Ferrari 2017), the presence of the Least Grebe in the province could be considered recurrent. That most

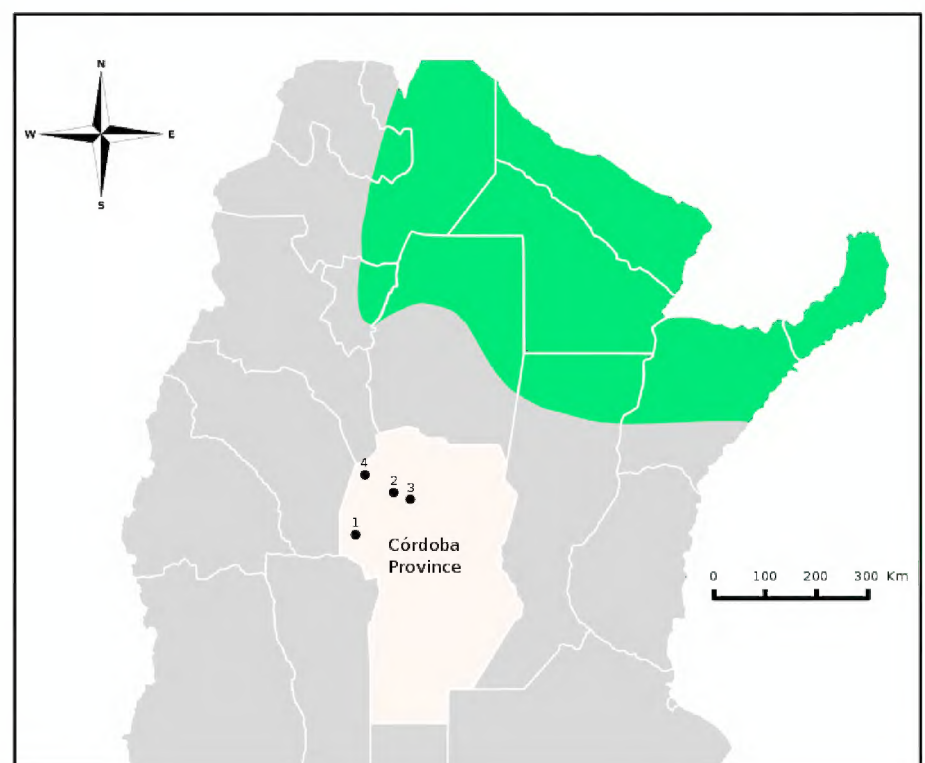


Figure 2. Distribution of the Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) in northern Argentina (green) according to BirdLife International (2018). Points with numbers indicate localities of the sightings in Córdoba province: 1 = Chancaní; 2 = Quilpo River; 3 = El Cajón Lake; 4 = Serrezuela.

Table 1. Records of *T. dominicus* in Córdoba Province uploaded to citizen science databases up to 30/10/2018. An ‘x’ is used when observers did not indicate the number of individuals.

Site (province)	Date	Latitude (S)	Longitude (W)	Individuals	Observers	Source
Cerca del pueblo, Las Peñas	30/08/2008	30° 33′ 00″	64° 05′ 05″	x	Carlos Carmona	Ecoregistros
Desembocadura del río Xanaes - Mar Chiquita (Córdoba)	07/01/2013	30° 56′ 32″	62° 43′ 57″	3	Gustavo Bruno	eBird
Laguna Mar Chiquita, Miramar (Córdoba)	18/11/2013	30° 54′ 31″	62° 41′ 03″	x	Miguel Ansenuza	Ecoregistros
Chancaní (Córdoba)	06/03/2015	31° 22′ 32″	65° 28′ 47″	1	Santiago Castillo, Javier Poblete	Present study - eBird
Laguna Mar Chiquita, Miramar (Córdoba)	04/01/2016	30° 54′ 02″	62° 45′ 00″	x	Dario Juan Wendeler	Ecoregistros
Laguna Gardien (Córdoba)	10/01/2016	32° 54′ 31″	63° 53′ 52″	x	Ignacio Koning	Ecoregistros
Chancaní (Córdoba)	15/08/2016	31° 26′ 43″	65° 30′ 34″	x	Andres Espindola	Ecoregistros
Chancaní (Córdoba)	27/08/2016	31° 26′ 43″	65° 30′ 34″	6	Ramiro Ramirez	eBird - Ecoregistros
Dique La Quebrada (Córdoba)	26/09/2016	31° 09′ 04″	64° 20′ 50″	x	Hernan Rojo	eBird
Dique La Quebrada (Córdoba)	27/09/2016	31° 09′ 04″	64° 20′ 50″	1	Leandro Bareiro Guiñazú	eBird
Dique La Quebrada (Córdoba)	30/09/2016	31° 09′ 08″	64° 21′ 06″	1	Juan Klavins	eBird
Embalse Cruz de Eje - Rio Quilpo (Córdoba)	02/11/2016	30° 47′ 27″	64° 42′ 08″	2	Martín Toledo, Santiago Martín Costas, Juan Klavins	Present study - eBird
Sierras de Guasapampa (Córdoba)	08/02/2017	31° 04′ 49″	65° 20′ 05″	4	Silvia Vitale, Carlos Ferrari	eBird
Embalse Cruz de Eje - Rio Quilpo (Córdoba)	13/05/2017	30° 47′ 20″	64° 42′ 20″	1	Gerardo Serra	eBird
Dique El Cajón - Capilla del Monte (Córdoba)	04/06/2017	30° 51′ 02″	64° 33′ 17″	1	Emiliano García Loyola	eBird - Ecoregistros
Dique El Cajón - Capilla del Monte (Córdoba)	16/06/2017	30° 51′ 56″	64° 32′ 42″	1	Martín Toledo, Santiago Martín Costas, Adrián Giaquinta, Santiago Castillo	Present study - eBird
San Javier (Córdoba)	05/08/2017	31° 57′ 32″	65° 05′ 48″	1	Coa Chiguanco	eBird - Ecoregistros
Entre San Javier y Las Rosas (Córdoba)	04/09/2017	32° 00′ 07″	65° 04′ 03″	1	David Vergara	eBird
Dique La Quebrada (Córdoba)	09/09/2017	31° 09′ 04″	64° 20′ 50″	1	Guillermo Sferco	eBird
Parque Nacional Traslasierra (Córdoba)	09/11/2017	31° 09′ 00″	65° 29′ 01″	1	Francisco González Táboas	eBird
Chancaní (Córdoba)	05/11/2017	31° 24′ 24″	65° 25′ 50″	3	Emiliano García Loyola	eBird
Serrezuela (Córdoba)	21/07/2018	30° 38′ 45″	65° 19′ 38″	1	Martín Toledo, Juan Klavins, Fabricio Gorleri	Present study - eBird
Cruz del Eje (Córdoba)	20/08/2018	30° 45′ 50″	60° 45′ 21″	2	Alfredo Leaden	eBird

of the records are backed by photographs eliminates the possibility of confusion with another species of grebe, particularly with the White-Tufted Grebe, with which the Least Grebe has been confused in the past (Nores and Yzurieta 1983). Besides the records in Córdoba, different sightings have been reported in the provinces of Mendoza, San Luis, Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos, and central and southern Santa Fe, even including nesting records (de la Peña et al. 2003, Preisz 2011, Leiva et al. 2012, Lorenzón et al. 2015, eBird 2018). Currently, the large number of birdwatchers with access to citizen-science platforms compared to a few years ago, could be the reason for the discovery of the species in Córdoba. However, the existence of numerous historical records in northern Argentina on the same platforms and that the species has not been cited for the province in specific bibliography (Nores and Yzurieta 1980), suggest

that the species has extended its distributional limit to the south.

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Authors’ Contributions

MT, SMC, AG and SC collected the data and identified the species; MT and SC provided the photographic records; SC edited the pictures; SMC and AG provided the map; SC wrote the text; MT, SMC and AG reviewed the text.

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